

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 00884 082041Z

64

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 ACDA-10 AID-05 SR-02 ORM-01

SAB-01 SAM-01 /079 W

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O 082030Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO USDEL ASWAN IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2891

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 884

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SY, PFOR

SUBJ: ASAD PLEDGES JOINT SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN POLITICAL-
MILITARY COMMAND.

1. IN SPEECH DELIVERED MARCH 8 ON TWELFTH ANNIVERSARY
OF BA'TH PARTY ACCESSION TO POWER, PRES ASAD MOVED PALESTINIAN
ISSUE FURTHER TO CENTER STAGE BY NEW PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH
JOINT SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN POLITICAL AND MILITARY COMMANDS.
ASAD STATED THAT HE WAS NOT OFFERING A SPECIFIC FORMULA,
BUT HIS IDEA WAS INDICATION OF EXTENT TO WHICH HE WAS
PREPARED TO GO IN SUPPORTING PALESTINIAN CAUSE, IF PALESTINIANS
SO DESIRED. HE STRESSED POINT THAT JOINT COMMANDS WERE
PROPOSED TO EXTEND UNTIL PALESTINIAN RIGHTS WERE SECURED.
"WHAT THIS MEANS IS CLEAR - WE ARE READY TO ESTABLISH ONE
POLITICAL COMMAND TO LEAD SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN POLICY, AND
ONE MILITARY COMMAND TO LEAD SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN ARMED FORCES."

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2. IN OTHER PARTS OF SPEECH DEALING WITH THE ARAB-ISRAELI

DISPUTE, ASAD ASSERTED THAT SYRIA WAS STRONG ENOUGH TO RESIST PRESSURE FROM THE ENEMY AND "THOSE WHO STAND BEHIND HIM." HE ALSO CRITICIZED U.S. ARMS SHIPMENTS TO ISRAEL, WHICH HAD LED ISRAEL TO IGNORE PEACE. HE MADE REFERENCE TO SYRIA'S MILITARY OPTION -- "THE NATION WHICH FOUGHT IN OCTOBER KNOWS THE ROAD TO ANOTHER OCTOBER" -- BUT EMPHASIZED THAT SYRIA FAVORED A JUST PEACE, WHICH HE DEFINED AS A PEACE WITH NO OCCUPATION OF OTHER'S TERRITORY, NO DISPERSED PEOPLE, AND ONE WHICH SECURES PALESTINIAN RIGHTS. SYRIA, STATED ASAD, WOULD JOIN IN EVERY SINCERE EFFORT TO ACHIEVE PEACE.

3. SPEECH OTHERWISE WAS "STATE OF NATION" TYPE SUMMARY OF BA'TH LEADERSHIP ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SPHERES, INCLUDING EXTENDED DISCUSSION OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN SYRIA.
MURPHY

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